



Maj. Michael A. Palmer



Maj. Tom Henry

RIOT

PATIENT TOUR -- An elderly Guyanese woman (top left) was one on 2,193 patients treated by 439th MDS medics during their two-week tour in Guyana.

Westover medics bring relief to people of Guyana

by SSgt. Christine Mora

Thirty members of the 439th Medical Squadron deployed to Guyana from July 27 - Aug. 9 to support New Horizon Guyana '97, a U.S. Southern Command engineering and medical field training exercise in South America.

U.S. forces worked with the government of Guyana, the Guyana Defense Force and local community leaders to accomplish construction and medical projects.

The Westover contingent, including doctors, physicians' assistants, dentists, dental technicians, nurses, public health specialists, medical technicians, optometry technicians, pharmacy technicians, and bioenvironmental engineers provided medical care for deployed military members and Guyanese citizens at several locations in the country.

The 439th MDS was one of four U.S. units deployed to Guyana. "This was the first time the Air Force had deployed to Guyana," said CMSgt. George Kudla, health services manager. "We were one of only a few units that met the criteria. A unit had to have remote experience as recently as two years, (members of the 439th MDS had deployed to Honduras in March of 1996) so they could be self-sufficient out in the field."

The 439th medics were based at Camp Stephenson in Timehri and deployed to remote sites in Kumaka, Capoey and Waramuril, isolated villages near Guyana's northeast coast, where they treated 2,193 Guyanese citizens.

"We treated a lot of infectious diseases, dehydration, skin rashes and dental problems," said Co. (Dr.) Yash Malhotra, 439th MDS commander. "More than 30 percent of the pa-



Maj. Michael A. Palmer

OPEN AIR OPERATION -- Lt. Col. Allen L. Oshana, 439th dental officer, and SSgt. Danette Otto, aeromedical journeyman, perform dental surgery.

(continued on page 6 and 7)



TSgt. W.C. Pope

CHIEFS' SCHOLARSHIPS -- Westover's Chiefs' Council awarded \$300 scholarships at a luncheon recently. Recipients and base personnel were (front) Tara Carter, Jill Missale, and (back row from left) Brig. Gen. James Bankers, Matthew Podkowka, Erin Stone and CMSgt. Larry Lose. A total of ten scholarships were given.

Lodging improvements prompt rate increases

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The cost of the ongoing effort to improve lodging facilities has prompted a \$2 rate increase for most quarters in all Air Reserve Command billeting organizations.

Beginning Oct. 1, Westover's daily room rate went up from \$8 to \$10. In addition, the rates for distinguished visitor and chief master sergeant suites were raised from \$10 to \$18. Room rates were previously increased in October, 1996 as the result of an Air Force wide \$2 surcharge on all rooms to pay for upgrades of lodging facilities. Last year's rate hike was the first increase in billeting charges since 1987.

The \$2 surcharge in 1996 went directly to Headquarters Air Force to fund Air Force wide lodging improvements.

The additional revenue from this year's rate increase will remain at Westover to pay for renovations of the VOQ and VAQ, said MSgt. Paul Gilman, Lodging NCOIC.

Work is tentatively scheduled to begin this winter to remodel rooms and install private bathrooms in the VOQ. Also planned are a glass walkway around the front of the officers' quarters, an elevator and a patio. Proposals for renovations of the VAQ remain in the planning stage, Gilman said.

Billeting is welcoming growing numbers of guests as the result of new tenant units on base and Westover's expanding role as a training center for all services, Gilman said. The recently established passenger terminal is also bringing in more retirees and others who spend the night here on the Space Available program, he said.

PATRIOT

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CORRECTION

An Air Force Reserve Command News Service article that appeared in the *Patriot* last month contained some incorrect information.

The article, which explained uniform changes, stated in part: Embroidered badges and specialty insignia worn on the battle dress uniform will be phased out. It should have stated: Embroidered badges and specialty insignia worn on mess dress uniforms will be phased out.

ATSO drill sharpens combat skills

by MSgt. Thomas Allocco

When the public address system barks out the "alarm red," MSgt. Anthony Delduco knows exactly how to don his chemical gear and respond to the attack. He and his fellow civil engineers are already good, but their job this fall is to get even better.

Getting faster, smarter and more efficient at self-defense and completing the mission under combat conditions is the idea behind a string of Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) exercises in Dogpatch that began on the September "A" UTA. They will culminate with a three-day Limited Operational Readiness Inspection (LORI) on the November "B" UTA.

ATSO was one of four skill categories which were successfully tested in the March ORI to Cecil Field NAS, Fla., and Griffiss AFB, N.Y. in March. The additional training, and return of an IG team in November reflects the high priority placed on combat skills, said Lt. Col. Thomas Mauzaka, ATSO commander.

"Our first priority is to protect our people. We must demonstrate the ability to survive and continue the mission under any circumstances," the 439th ALCF commander said.

"A lot of people are putting in a lot of time to do this the right way because they welcome the opportunity to demonstrate they know how to do the job at 100 percent," Mauzaka said.

More than 200 reservists representing all units on base are participating in the combat training. The scenario on the September "A" UTA started with a chemical attack in which medical specialists gave instruction in self-aid and "buddy care," aerial porters conducted decontamination exercises and roped off unexploded ordnance and communications specialists set up a field telephone network.

"It's only an exercise, but it's still pretty stressful because everybody knows they are being evaluated, and they are making an effort to look good," said SSgt. Eric Miller of the 439th ALCF, who evaluated the medical response.

The goal is to be able to perform a thousand tasks under extreme stress without stopping to think. Only those who can do everything from snapping down chemical suit flaps to locking down rapid



SSgt. Nancy Robbins

ALARM RED -- During an August ATSO exercise, members of the 439th Airlift Wing donned full chemical gear in response to "alarm red."

runway sheets will survive a real "alarm red."

"We can do our job. We built Dogpatch. This is about knowing where you have to be, getting the word to everyone and being effective," Delduco said.

"It's a good test of command and control. If you don't have the accountability, you won't have the right people at the right place. The more people you have

doing their job, the quicker tasks will be handled and the quicker we can resume base operations, including repairing runways and having planes come in and take off," he said.

"We can be called out on 24-hours notice. If we are unprepared, people are going to die and facilities are not going to get prepared. Ultimately that is the reality of training for combat," Delduco said.



SSgt. Joe McLean

TARGET PRACTICE -- TSgt. Michael Thorpe, 439th Combat Arms Training and Maintenance craftsman, observes SMSgt. Timothy Murphy, 439th CATM superintendent, as he fires his M-16 at Westover's firing range. The CATM section trains more than 3,000 people a year.



OLYMPIC STRETCH -- SrA. Thomas Rondeau stretches before a workout at a Japanese dojo. While serving a prior assignment, Rondeau was encouraged by coaches at this judo school to shoot for Olympic competition.

Reservist fights for U.S. Olympic spot

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

When Senior Airman Thomas Rondeau, Westover security specialist, was introduced to karate at 10 years old, he discovered martial arts gave him the self-discipline he hadn't found in other areas of his life. And 16 years later he is using this discipline to train for a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

The Olympics haven't always been a goal for Rondeau. The 26-year old, who holds black belts in judo and taekwon do, didn't know he had what it takes to be an Olympian until he studied judo in Japan while TDY at Misawa Air Base.

"The coaches in Japan told me I had a lot of raw talent in judo, I just needed polish in my technique," Rondeau said. "They encouraged me to consider competing at the Olympic level."

And that's exactly what Rondeau plans to do.

While in Japan, Rondeau trained intensely. He found that one difference between American and Japanese training was that Japanese coaches spend more time practicing "randori" -- Japanese fighting or sparring -- and less time with drills. The athlete believes this training honed his fighting skills.

Rondeau said that judo, which developed from jujitsu, differs from other martial arts like karate in that there is no striking; the moves are comparable to

that of wrestling. The competitors win fights by throwing or pinning their opponents, or by placing them in submission or choke holds. Rondeau practices these techniques in the "dojo" or judo school. There, his American instructor also told Rondeau he is Olympic material.

To get to the Olympic level, the Springfield native needs to accrue points that are gained through local, regional, and national competitions. The higher Rondeau places in competition, the more points he acquires. Last November, the aspiring Olympian placed second in the Charles Chaves Memorial Tournament for his weight class.

Rondeau's intense training regimen consists of workouts at the dojo, weight training, and running. He does each three times a week. He said he has a lot of training and competing to do before he will qualify. "I've trained with Olympians and I know that there is a lot of tough competition out there," Rondeau said. "I will stay disciplined and continue to compete and train -- basically I will do the best I can."



Tom Rondeau

Briefs

Units still must pay for no-shows

When reservists are "no-shows" on billeting reservations their units will still pick up the bill under new payment procedures which began Oct. 1.

The new International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card (IMPAC) payment procedures revise the way units pay for billeting when their members stay on or off base.

Under the new system, the Wing, Support, Operations and Logistics Groups will be issued a card similar to a credit card to pay lodging fees for their members. The billeting office will send a bill to each unit, and will expect payment, including for those reservists who fail to cancel an un-kempt reservation.

"The IMPAC system makes it more important for reservists to make reservations and to either keep them or notify us when they must cancel them," said MSgt. Paul Gilman, Lodging NCOIC.

"Reservations enable us to set up the numbers of rooms we need on base and to arrange for contract quarters off-base. A contract quarters room that goes unused costs us \$25 to \$30," Gilman said.

Units take room reservations during UTAs. Reservations can also be made or canceled by calling the billeting office at 557-2700.

Officer vacancy

The Wing Command Post now has a vacant reserve officer position. The lieutenant colonel position's AFSC is 011A3A and the duty title is chief of Command and Control.

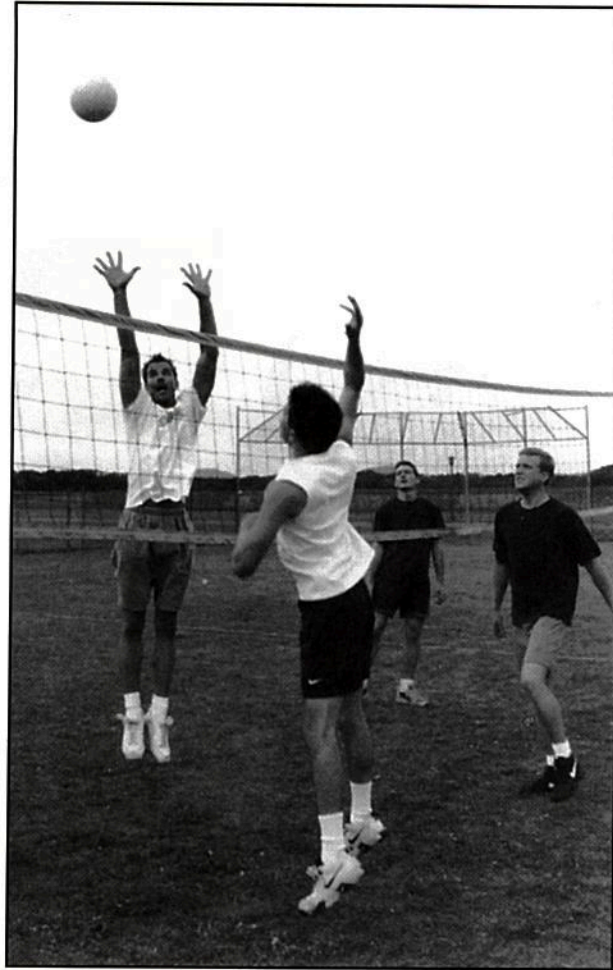
The primary responsibilities of the chief of Command and Control is to provide leadership and management for a 13-person staff and to ensure the smooth operation of the Wing Command Post.

Those interested must possess the required AFSC. Submit resumes to Maj. Max Mendoza, Wing executive officer, by the close of business on Oct. 17, 1997. For more information, call Maj. Mendoza at Ext. 2307.

FAMILY PICNIC



TSgt. Don Talbot

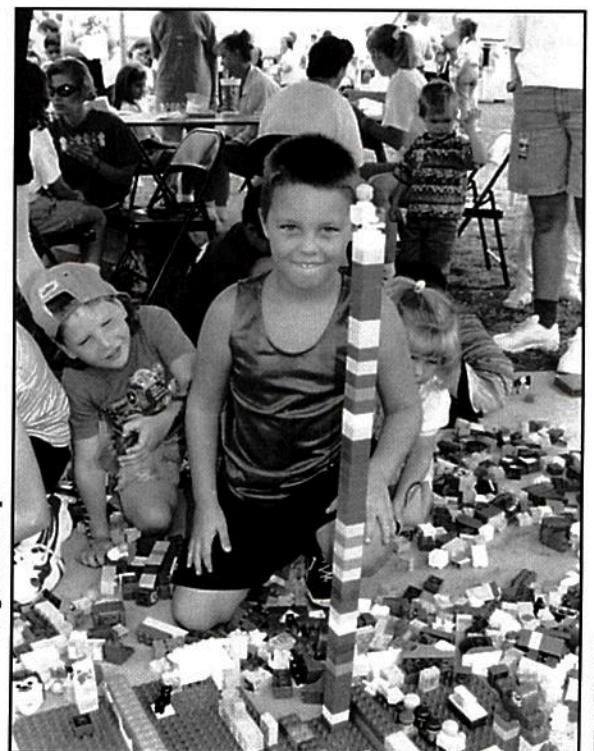


TSgt. W. C. Pope

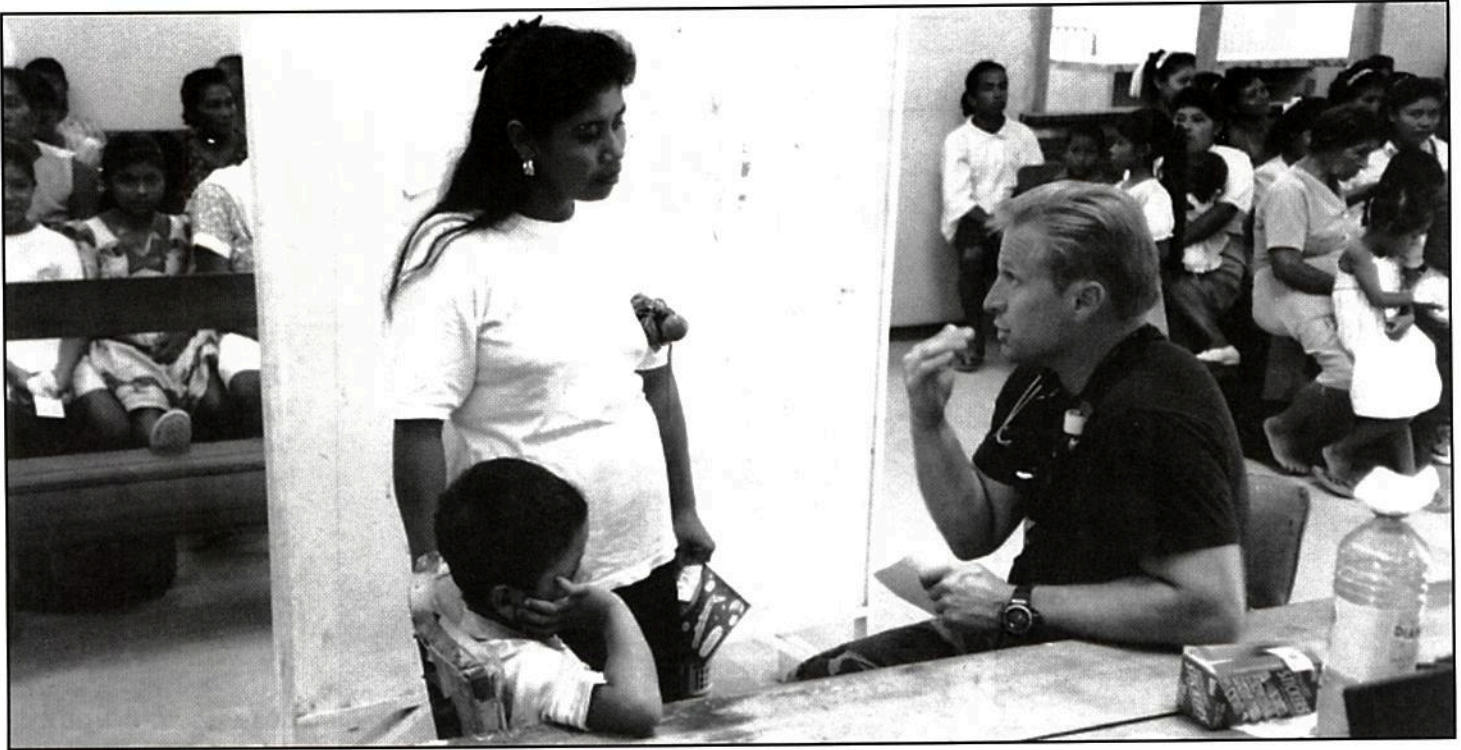
FUNDAY OF THE UTA -- As a gesture of appreciation, the Wing hosted a family picnic on September 6. Beautiful weather set a backdrop for volleyball, horseshoes, hayrides, clowns, face painting, dunking booths, and plenty of food and drink.



TSgt. W. C. Pope



TSgt. W. C. Pope



MILITARY OPERATION -- (above) Capt. Jim Geiss, a 439th clinical nurse, interviews patients before admitting them for treatment. (below) Col. Yash Malhotra, 439th MDS commander, repairs a hernia.

Medics on duty

continued from page 1



Maj. Thomas E. Henry

tients we saw were children.”

The medics treated 1,868 patients at Kumaka and Waramuril, including 449 dental patients, extracted 640 teeth and dispensed 2,827 prescriptions. During a four-day period at Capoey, the reservists treated 325 patients, including 81 dental patients, extracted 111 teeth and dispensed 576 prescriptions.

Although facilities at the austere site were not designed for surgery, in one specific case Malhotra reattached a thumb that was severed by a machete.

“When the patient with the severed thumb came in, it only took 10 minutes to set up a make-shift emergency room so Dr. Malhotra could do surgery. It was incredible,” said Maj. Bob Sousa, 439th MDS health services administrator.

First Lieutenant Nina Byorick, a 439th MDS physician assistant, responded to a snake bite wound and saved the life of a young woman, according to SSgt. Danette Otto, a 439th MDS aeromedical journeyman. “If Lieutenant Byorick hadn’t kept the woman hydrated, and the wound cleaned and dressed, she probably wouldn’t have lived.”

Working in a combined environment with all branches of the U.S. military — active duty, National Guard and Reserve — and the Guyana Defense Force, was a unique experience for the 439th, according to 1st Lt. Howard Crawford, 439th MDS health services administrator.

“Our medical technicians were able to perform in field conditions, we were able to see and treat diseases that we would never see or treat in the U.S.,” Crawford said.

The Westover medics drew on their experience in Honduras last year. “The Guyana tour was different than Honduras,” said Maj. Barry Cunha, a 439th MDS dental officer. “The conditions in Guyana were actually better. The water supply was cleaner—the Guyanese collected rain water instead of using rivers for drinking, bathing and waste. They had outhouses that didn’t empty

439th medics deployed to Guyana

Col. Yash P. Malhotra
Lt. Col. Phillip R. Brown
Lt. Col. Allen Oshana
Maj. Barry Cunha
Maj. Thomas E. Henry
Maj. Michael A. Palmer
Maj. Robert A. Sousa
Capt. Deborah Fuller
Capt. Jim R. Geiss
1st Lt. Nina Byorick
1st Lt. Howard Crawford
1st Lt. Ari Fisher
CMSgt. George Kudla
SMSgt. Barbara Bender
MSgt. James E. Riano
MSgt. F.A. VanLingen
MSgt. Charles Whittington
TSgt. Jean Allison
TSgt. David Fallon
TSgt. Robert Larkowski
TSgt. Felicia M. Marshall
SSgt. Nicole J. Girard
SSgt. Marianne S. Healey
SSgt. Rowdy W. Hough
SSgt. Dannelle Otto
SSgt. Ruth Rodriguez
SrA. Derek S. Brindisi
SrA. Patricia Freeman
SrA. Kim Phillips
A1C Michael C. Girouard



courtesy of SSgt. Dannelle Otto

HOUSE CALLS - (above) Lt. Col. Phillip R. Brown, a 439th public health officer, and Capt. Deborah A. Fuller, a clinical nurse, fly aboard a Blackhawk helicopter on their way to Kumaka. (below) SSgt. Rowdy W. Hough, a 439th medical services journeyman, gives a helping hand as he cleanses the wound of a Guyanese child.

in Guyana

into the rivers or lakes and they seemed to be better dressed and fed - generally healthier."

Cunha said the most difficult part for him was performing extractions on teeth he could easily save. "They had no materials or consistent medical attention so it wasn't feasible to repair their teeth," he said. "Essentially, our goal was to relieve their pain and the only way we could do that was to perform extractions."

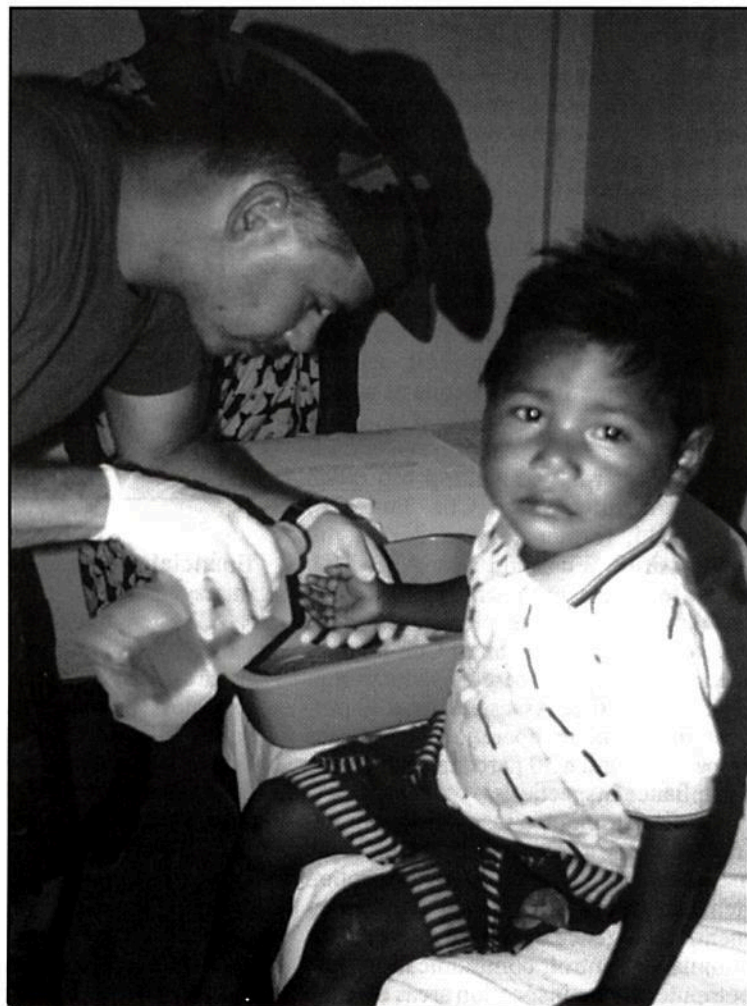
The dentist said that the villagers didn't seem to mind. "There is no social stigma about losing teeth like there is here," Cunha said. "Once we got past the frustration of not being able to perform routine repairs, we realized we were performing a service and they were so grateful."

And stoic. "The children were amazing," Cunha said. "They weren't afraid and didn't seem to mind the procedures. They seem to be accustomed to a harder life than we're used to, but appear very happy and tolerant."

SrA. Kim Phillips, a 439th MDS aeromedical journeyman, disbursed countless prescriptions to the Guyanese villagers. "We gave away a lot of medicine to treat parasites, lice and scabies," she said. "Most of the prescriptions we disbursed were in response to environmental conditions."

Phillips, also a Honduras veteran, said the illnesses were not as prevalent as they were on her 1996 tour in Honduras. "In Honduras, we gave parasite medication to every single person we treated," she said. "Another major difference between Honduras and Guyana was the lack of a language barrier. The Guyanese speak English, while the Hondurans speak Spanish."

Crawford said the Guyanese citizens were thankful for the little things people in the U.S. often take for granted. "Things like aspirin and vitamins are just not available to the people down here, especially at the remote sites," he said. "Very few children even shed a tear because they knew the benefits of the care they were receiving."



courtesy of Maj. Michael A. Palmer

Kinder, gentler Inspector General in the works

by MSgt. M. Gail Floyd

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Beginning Jan. 1, the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command inspector general will eliminate some of the sting associated with unit inspections.

The IG will continue to concentrate on critical areas--those areas mandated by federal and state law, executive order, Department of Defense directive and key result or objective of the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve Command strategic plan.

However, non-critical areas, which may or may not affect the overall performance of the unit, will not be inspected. The IG team will also stop checking unit's self-assessments, which means units will need to rely more heavily on higher headquarters staff assistance visits.

These changes came out of an Air Force Blue Ribbon Commission that met earlier this year to discuss the role of the inspector general in inspections, assessments, evaluations and awards. Concerned with the increasing inspection demands on bases and units, the commission recommended to senior Reserve officials a reduction in the aggregate footprint of the IG. As a result, the size of the inspection team will decrease and the amount of time the IG spends at a base will lessen.

"The current way of doing evaluations and unit awards was putting too much stress on units," said Col. James P. Czekanski, former commander of the 439th Airlift Wing and now AFRC/IG. Because units were spending too much time and resources in preparing for inspections, the Blue Ribbon Commission recommended a 70 percent reduction in Quality Air Force Assessments, a 30 percent reduction in operational readiness inspections and a 30 percent reduction in compliance inspections.

"Unit compliance inspections are going to be very different from what people are used to," he said. Core inspection items are safety, environmental management, intelligence oversight, contracting, command, control, communications and computers. Two inspection areas to come out of the AFRC strategic plan include

financial responsibility and resource management.

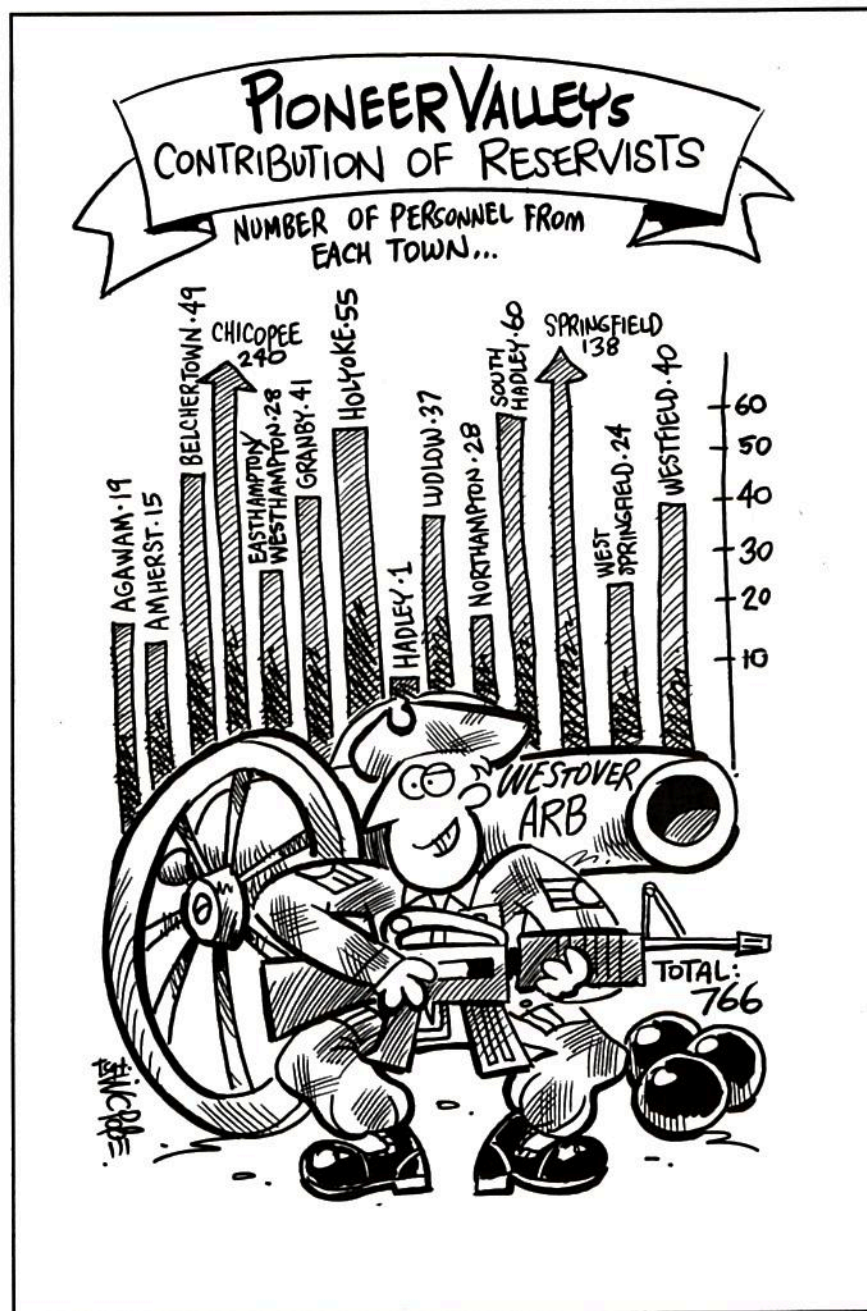
"We're going to focus the IG on what we call 'go to jail' items--violating critical areas that could have a severe legal or readiness impact on units," Czekanski said. "We're not looking at as many things and we will be evaluating cross functional areas rather than squadrons by functional office or primary responsibility. We hope to reduce our footprint by 50 percent within two years."

The Blue Ribbon Commission also recommended changes in the traditional five-tier grading system for inspections. The Air Force Reserve Command will institute a grading system that is basically

a "pass-fail" system.

Critical areas in compliance with requirements will receive a satisfactory. Best practice will go to units who benchmark for the rest of the command. And unsatisfactory is reserved for critical areas that don't meet requirements.

Czekanski said there should be no increase in workload for units to prepare for this new and improved IG. "In many cases, these requirements are so basic that there really should not be a whole lot done to prepare for us," he said. "Since these are so critical for the operation of the organization, they (units) should be doing them on a daily basis anyway." (AFRC News Service)



Giving Back to America

Rodriguez returns investment made in him

by MSgt. Sandi Michon

One of Art Rodriguez's duties in the military is to draw DNA blood samples to help identify people in the future.

In civilian life, Rodriguez has an ability to draw even more out of people – to help identify them in the present.

Kids, especially appear drawn to Rodriguez – they seem to know he can relate – and he can.

Beneath the poised, articulate exterior of the 439th MDS staff sergeant is the heart of a young man who struggled. Moving to Waterbury, Conn. from Puerto Rico when he was four-years-old, Rodriguez grew up in a single-parent home. He remembers his grandmother's death when he was seven, and his mother's brief time on government assistance.

"Whenever I struggled with something," recalls Rodriguez, "my mother would tell me, 'You can do it, you are my son.'" But the enthusiasm for his mother's words ebbed by high school. He was nearly failing in all subjects when his track coach saw something hidden in Rodriguez. "He helped me to see myself as someone of value – someone who could succeed," Rodriguez said. "He had faith in me."

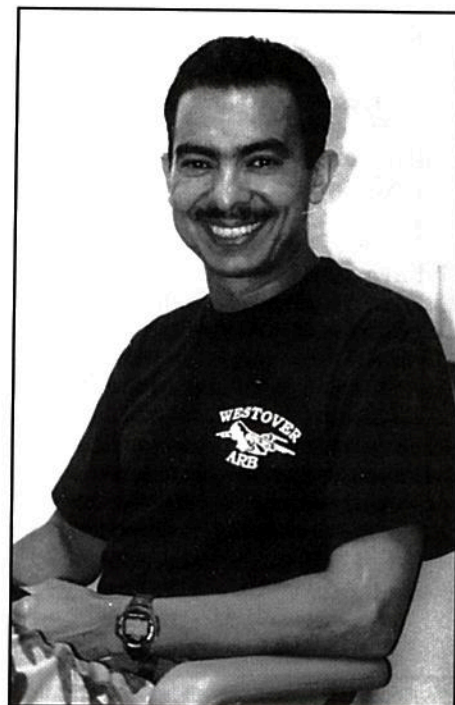
His track coach, Mike Emanuel, even

served as a protective covering. "No one messed with Art Rodriguez – I was Mike's boy," he remembers fondly. He modestly admits to being a city champion on his high school track team.

After high school, the military took over where Mike and Rodriguez's mom left off. The marginal high school student completed three degrees in nine years active duty and received his master's degree in human resources a short time later. Rodriguez was an avid student. "It [the Air Force] gave me an arena to achieve," he said.

His Air Force career was split between lab technician and social actions instructor. Besides the college degrees, Rodriguez says the military helped him pay attention to details. In lab work, details were vital to proper diagnosis, and in social actions he learned to pay attention to the details of people – to catch small signs of trouble. His social action job honed his speaking skills, and exposed him to a diversity of people. "I found that the more diverse people are, the more they are the same," he observed.

After active duty, Rodriguez parlayed those skills into a job with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. He trains and licenses potential foster parents and worked a two-year stint investi-



MSgt. Sandi Michon

SSgt. Art Rodriguez

gating child abuse allegations.

Rodriguez and his wife Evelyn, have two sons, Eric and David. As a family man, Rodriguez wants to show a return on the investments made in him. He has served on the YMCA board and when not coaching Little League baseball, is ferrying teams to various sports games. He organized a free running clinic for kids this summer through his local church.

But his real passion has come full circle – he is track and cross-country coach at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury. He hopes to accomplish what his track coach did for him -- to show each one a mirror of their potential. "I want to teach them to give it their all, that if you really want something, you have to work at it," he said. "If you lose, don't cry, work harder."

His dark brown eyes are intense as he talks about "his kids." He sees the need to be coach, mentor, friend and father figure, but wants their success measured not by their running, but by how they do in school and how they relate to others.

For the man who has kept in touch with his high school track coach for 22 years, Rodriguez says his real litmus test is when a student returns after graduation, and says "Thank You."



Courtesy of SSgt. Art Rodriguez

LITTLE LEAGUE LINE-UP-- Art Rodriguez, left, prepares his game line-up prior to a season game. Art coaches his son's team in Waterbury,

Patriot People

Name: Eric D. Harris
Rank: SSgt.
Age: 27
Address: Chicopee, Mass.
Unit: 439th AGS
Position: Crew chief
Civilian position: Air Reserve Technician
Favorite food: Italian
Years of service: 9
Favorite sport: Hockey and golf
Favorite hobby: Sports
Ideal vacation: Caribbean vacation with wife Lisa
Best way to relax: Watch T.V.
Preferred entertainment: Friday night golf league
Favorite hero: Chief Alan Rogers
Favorite music: Anything
Favorite movie: *Spaceballs*
Favorite aircraft: C-5A
Pet peeve: Whining and incompetence
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Spend most of it and invest the last 20 bucks..



TSgt. W.C. Pope

SSgt. Eric D. Harris

Patriot Praises

Promotions

CMSgt. Boidleau, Raymond V.
 MSgt. Dube, Marilyn A.
 MSgt. Kohler, Kurt C.
 MSgt. McGee, Kirk A.
 MSgt. Pandolfi, Joseph J.
 MSgt. Rys, Robert E.
 MSgt. Schanzer, Patricia E.
 MSgt. Stawasz, Robert L.
 MSgt. Thorpe, Michael F.
 TSgt. Dubois, Daniel P.
 TSgt. Evangelisto, Thomas M.
 TSgt. Little, Irving G.
 TSgt. Rodriguez, Ruth J.
 TSgt. Sporer, Donna M.
 TSgt. Wood, Jean Pierre
 TSgt. Zackaricz, Joseph N.
 SSgt. Combs, Robert S., Jr.
 SSgt. Harris, Kenyatta L.
 SSgt. Hebert, Mandy M.
 SSgt. Magistri, Tracy L.
 SSgt. Quigley, Shawn M.
 SSgt. Serricchio, Robert
 SSgt. Shank, Jeffrey M.
 SrA. Broadbent, Keith F.
 SrA. Demers, David J.
 SrA. Girouard, Michael C.
 SrA. Peros, Michael M.
 SrA. Savard, Arthur E., Jr.
 SrA. Searway, Thomas A.
 SrA. Swedock, Ava M.
 A1C Lyons, John F.

Enlistments

SSgt. Carter, Arnel L.
 SSgt. Clark, William H.
 SSgt. Culhane, Timothy E.
 SSgt. Gaj, Christopher P.
 SSgt. Lebron, Antonio
 SSgt. Savoie, Craig A.
 A1C Muller, J. Eric
 A1C Sherblom, Timothy J.
 A1C Sullivan, Laura A.
 A1C Wayne, Michael L.
 SrA. Digioso, Robert B.
 SrA. Losano, Joseph A.
 SrA. Mercado, Wanda Y.

Reenlistments

CMSgt. Tavares, John J.
 SMSgt. Labrecque, Richard N.
 SMSgt. Puopolo, Frank M.
 SMSgt. Wenthe, Teresa M.
 MSgt. Doyle, Michael K.
 MSgt. Fonfara, Constance M.
 MSgt. Hoagland, George L.
 MSgt. McKemmie, Nancy A.
 MSgt. Parker, Garth O., Jr.
 MSgt. Philbrick, Mark E.
 TSgt. Callery, Robert F.
 TSgt. Charest, Richard J.
 TSgt. Forbes, William J.
 TSgt. Geick, Kyle R.
 TSgt. Goguen, Richard J.
 TSgt. Halla, Richard W.
 TSgt. Ng, Johnny K.W.
 TSgt. Ohearn, Michael W.
 TSgt. Schulz, Kimberly S.
 TSgt. Stone, George D.
 TSgt. Walas, Christina M.
 TSgt. Warbeck, Shirley A.
 TSgt. Wilson, David F.
 SSgt. Boucher, David G.
 SSgt. Boyer, Daniel P.
 SSgt. Chapman, John R.
 SSgt. Dubois, Daniel P.
 SSgt. Francis, Worrel A.
 SSgt. Ives, Brandon W.
 SSgt. Kern, Robert R., Jr.
 SSgt. Lengel, Robert W.
 SSgt. Lopez, Theophile X.
 SSgt. Macleod, Michael S.
 SSgt. Marshall, John E.
 SSgt. Morin, Donald R.
 SSgt. Moskal, Richard A.
 SSgt. Prada, Ronald
 SSgt. Prechtl, John J.
 SSgt. Robert, Theresa M.
 SSgt. Roberts, Todd A.
 SSgt. Soja, Paul M.
 SSgt. Turner, David W.
 SSgt. Vight, Dennis J.
 SrA. Brandt, James F.
 SrA. Canoy, Shannon E.
 SrA. Davis, Frank E.
 SrA. Elwood, Peter R.
 SrA. Long, Christopher P.
 SrA. Natalie, Peter P., Jr.
 SrA. Yell, Brian E.C.

Space A on website

Westover's weekly space available schedule will no longer be transmitted over e-mail. Beginning in October, all updates will be available on the Space A website at <http://www.afres.mil/units/439aw/spacea.htm>.

MDS hours change

Beginning the December A UTA, the 439th Medical Squadron will provide physicals, immunizations, and medical support services on Saturdays only. Physicals will be conducted as they have in the past.

All immunizations except for yellow fever will be given from 8 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Yellow fever will be administered from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.. The medical squadron will not be open on Sunday for routine medical support.

These changes were prompted by customer survey results, unit restructuring, and to facilitate medical squadron training. Direct questions to the Medical Squadron at 3565/3197.

A-76 study cleared up

A news article that appeared in the Springfield Union-News Aug. 27 regarding the on-going A-76 study at Westover may have caused confusion to some concerned base employees. I hope this editorial will help to clear up the matter.

The article stated that employees will have to bid to keep their jobs. This is not quite correct. What actually happens is that a work statement is developed to define the positions that will be bid on. This information then becomes the baseline for submission of bids by prospective contractors and the Air Force to perform those functions.

The Air Force, in this case Westover, conducts a management study to determine the "most effective organization" (MEO) for performing that work. Most likely, that organizational structure will be smaller than the existing one. For example, there are approximately 200 positions currently involved in performing the work under study. The MEO may show that Westover could effectively perform the work with 160 positions. That number of positions, along with estimated material and operational costs, becomes the Air Force's bid to retain the workload 'in-house.'

The Air Force's bid is then submitted for competition with outside contractor bids. The determination of whether the work remains in-house or is contracted out will be based on the most cost effective way of performing that work.

If an outside contract is awarded, current federal employees who would be adversely affected would be afforded right of first refusal for the jobs with the contractor. In addition, the contractor would also be required to compensate its employees based on prevailing rates in the local area. To minimize adverse impact on current career federal employees, the base is holding the positions vacant where possible, or filling with temporary employees.

Base employees are represented by Local 3707 of the American Federation of Government Employees. Representatives of that union are involved in the base's steering committee which establishes local procedures for the Air Force bid. A number of rank and file employees have participated in developing and reviewing the performance work statement to define the work to be performed.

As the process moves on, we will try to keep involved employees advised of progress.

by Brig Gen. James D. Bankers
439th Airlift Wing Commander

EDITORIAL



Reserve dental plan, a sweet deal

People programs are important to everyone in the Air Force Reserve.

At a time when it seems benefits are in danger of being reduced due to smaller budgets, I'm happy to be able to tell you we had a big win with the new Reserve Dental Insurance plan due to start this month. For just \$4.36 a month, you can buy basic coverage, up to \$1,000 a year. Even when there is no co-payment, it will average only one third of the cost, less for airmen basic through senior airmen.

The impact dental health readiness

was a major lesson learned during Operation Desert Storm. Bringing people up to standard delayed deployments of some units and individuals. Access to affordable dental care for our members improves their quality of life and brings us closer to being ready to deploy.

We owe a vote of thanks to the efforts of the service staffs and the military associations who worked to make it happen and to Congress who put it into law.

by Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh
AFRC Commander

Briefs

\$1,000 scholarships to be available for military spouses

Thirty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in January to spouses of active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members. Eligible spouses must be pursuing an associate/bachelor undergraduate or graduate/post graduate degree.

Undergraduate students must also be enrolled in the current semester with a minimum of six credit hours, in January, when the scholarships are awarded. Graduate/post graduate students must carry a minimum of three credit hours. Scholarships are open to all academic programs.

Applications, which must be postmarked no later than Oct. 27, are available at base education offices and family support centers and on an automatic faxing service. Dial 1-800-232-3563 and request document No. 856. If you are unable to obtain a copy of the application from those locations, write to Aerospace Education Foundation, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va. 22202 or call commercial 703-247-5800 ext. 4880.

Robins ALC wins workload for C-5s

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, GA. (AFNS) -- The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center was the winning bidder in the Air Force's public/private source selection process to determine who will gain the C-5 Galaxy aircraft depot maintenance workload currently performed by the San Antonio Air Logistics Center.

The first C-5s will arrive in October on this year, with an estimated 20 aircraft flowing through the ALC each year.

The contract is worth an estimated \$434 million over a seven-year period.

November UTA dates

A UTA Nov. 9-10
B UTA Nov. 22-23

Bosses see slice of Reserve life



TSgt. W. C. Pope

PILOT TO BOSSES -- Lt. Col. Dave Moore, C-5 pilot and 439th AW flight safety officer, explains procedures during an Employer Appreciation Day flight held Sept 20. Reservists' bosses were treated to a

C-5 flight, maintenance tour and a visit to their employee's Reserve workstations. A second bosses' day is scheduled for October 4. The base hosts approximately 70 employers per year.



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Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Tracie Aube of S. Hadley, Mass., and 2,646 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.